

Amendments to the Claims

1 -24 (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant cell comprising an endogenous nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:24, and wherein said plant cell comprises a mutation in said endogenous nucleotide sequence, or in a regulatory region thereof.

26. (previously presented) The transgenic plant cell of claim 25, wherein the mutation is due to an insertion of a nucleic acid molecule.

27. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant cell according to claim 26, wherein the insertion of a nucleic acid molecule comprises one T-DNA border region.

28. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant cell according to claim 27, wherein the insertion comprises a transposable element.

29-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant or progeny thereof, or seeds thereof comprising the plant cell of claim 25.

39. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant or progeny thereof, or seeds thereof comprising the plant cell of claim 26.

40-43 (Cancelled)

44. (previously presented) A method for reducing the expression in a plant cell or plant of an endogenous nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:24, wherein reducing the transcription or translation of said endogenous nucleotide sequence in the plant cell or plant comprises the step of:

modifying by insertional mutagenesis in said plant cell at least one chromosomal copy of the nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:24 or of a regulatory region thereof.

45–46 (Cancelled)

47. (previously presented) A method for increasing the expression of a nucleotide sequence of interest in a plant cell or plant comprising the steps of:

- a) decreasing the expression in said plant cell or plant of an endogenous nucleotide sequence of said plant cell encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:24 by modifying by insertional mutagenesis in said plant cell at least one chromosomal copy of the nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 24 or of a regulatory region thereof; and
- b) introducing into said plant cell or plant a nucleic acid molecule comprising said nucleotide sequence of interest, wherein the expression of said nucleotide sequence of interest in said plant cell or plant is increased.

48-50(Cancelled)

51. (Previously presented) A method for increasing the expression of an exogenous nucleotide sequence of interest in a transgenic plant cell or plant comprising the step of:

introducing into said transgenic plant cell or plant of claim 25 an exogenous nucleotide sequence of interest, wherein the expression of said exogenous nucleotide sequence of interest in said transgenic plant cell is increased as compared to the expression of said nucleotide sequence of interest that was suppressed due to post-transcriptional gene silencing (PTGS) in a plant cell or plant lacking said first expression cassette.

52. (currently amended) The method according to claim 51, wherein said endogenous nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:24 [[is]] comprises SEQ ID NO:23.

53-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant cell of claim 25, wherein the mutation is a deletion or rearrangement.

59. (Previously presented) The transgenic plant cell of claim 25, wherein the mutation is a point mutation.

60. (Currently amended) The transgenic plant cell of claim 25, wherein the endogenous nucleotide sequence is a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:23 and comprises a mutation.